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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/810,489	03/19/2001	Atsushi Tomita	032360-010	8259
7590	11/16/2006		EXAMINER	
Platon N. Mandros BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P. P.O. Box 1404 Alexandria, VA 22313-1404			SALAD, ABDULLAHI ELMI	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			2157	

DATE MAILED: 11/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/810,489	TOMITA, ATSUSHI	
	Examiner Salad E. Abdullahi	Art Unit 2157	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 October 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 5,9-11,13 and 15 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4, 6, 8, 12 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.
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Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/22/2006 has been entered.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claim 5 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
3. Claims 5, 9-11, 13 and 15 are allowed.
4. Applicant's argument with respect claims 1-4, 6, 8, 12, and 14 have been fully considered but are not persuasive for the following reasons.
5. Applicant alleges Kageyama does not disclose Kageyama reference does not teach the transmission of management information about second equipment, together with trouble information about first equipment.

Examiner respectfully disagrees because Kageyama discloses when trouble is detected on printer 2200, it is transmitted the management information about second equipment (i.e., the printer controller 2100) with the trouble detected from printer controller 2200 (see paragraph 0078-0084).

Furthermore applicant alleges Kageyama does not disclose Kageyama reference does not teach the transmission of management information about second equipment, together with trouble information about first equipment.

Examiner respectfully disagrees because Kageyama discloses when trouble is detected on printer 2200, it is transmitted the management information about second equipment (i.e., the printer controller 2100) with the trouble detected from printer controller 2200 (see paragraph 0078-0084). Furthermore, Kageyama discloses an equipment management apparatus, wherein the equipment is an image forming apparatus for forming an image on a sheet (see fig. 1 and see paragraph 0088-0091)..

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-4, and 6, 8, 12, and 14 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kageyama U.S. Patent No. 2002/0018681[hereinafter Kageyama] As per claims 1, 12 and 14, Kageyama discloses an equipment management apparatus (300) for transmitting management information collected from a plurality of equipment (network devices 2200) to a centralized management apparatus (management workstation 400), comprising:

a detector (2100) for detecting a trouble which has occurred in first equipment (2200) (see fig. 1 and paragraph 0078-0084);and

a transmission controller (300) for, when the trouble is detected by the detector, transmitting management information about second equipment which is other than the first equipment together with the trouble information about the first equipment to the centralized management apparatus (computer 400) (see fig. 1 and paragraph 0078-0084), wherein the first and second equipment are image forming apparatuses for forming an image on a sheet (see fig. 1 and see paragraph 0088-0091).

Kageyama is silent regarding: transmitting management information about second equipment.

Nonetheless, transmitting management information about second equipment would have been an obvious modification to Kageyama's system. Furthermore, Kageyama discloses database 2121 stores individual printer management information of plurality of printers and when trouble is detected on printer 2200, the printer controller transmits the trouble detected together with printer data database 2121 (see paragraph 0078-0084). Given the teaching of Kageyama one skilled in the art at the time of the invention would have readily recognized the advantage of transmitting management information of second equipment such that proactive printer management can be made, thus enabling to minimize down time of printers.

As per claim 2, Kageyama discloses an equipment management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the transmission controller responds to the detection of the trouble by the detector, and obtains the management information from the second (see paragraph 0088-0091)

As per claim 3, Kageyama discloses an equipment management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the transmission controller transmits management information about a plurality of equipment including the second equipment (see fig. 1 and see paragraph 0088-0091)

As per claim 4, Kageyama discloses an equipment management apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a selector for selecting the second equipment among the plurality of equipment based on a specified condition (i.e., status condition) (see fig. 1 and see paragraph 0088-0091)

As per claim 6, Kageyama discloses an equipment management apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the specified condition is characteristics of each of the equipment, and the selector selects the second equipment based on the characteristics of each of the equipment)(see col.4, lines 48-64 and col. 6, lines 1-11).

As per claim 8, Kageyama discloses an equipment management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the equipment is an image forming apparatus for forming an image on a sheet (see fig. 1 and see paragraph 0088-0091).

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Salad E Abdullahi whose telephone number is 571-272-

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4009. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300**.

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Abdullahi Salad

11/1/2006

ABDULLAHI SALAD
PRIMARY EXAMINER